

Public Representative
Julie Elmer
901 New York Ave, NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001
March 23, 2015

RECEIVED

2015 APR -6 P 10:33

Re: docket #A2015-2

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Dear Ms Elmer,

We are residents of Careywood Idaho(83809) and have major concerns regarding the pending closure of our contract post office.

This post office has served the community of Careywood since the 1930s and as such has also served as the hub of our community. If the goal of this closure is to save money for the USPO, this would be only a grain of sand within a monumental system. There is but one salaried person and one who delivers to the rural route by contract. As we understand it, there are no benefits paid to either of these persons involved and the rural route delivery would still need to exist, just move their center of operations further away, adding approximately 15 miles, or more, to their trip on a daily basis. There is no real estate property owned here by the USPO. This property is owned by the previous contract holder and he now receives lease payments from our current postmistress, Carrie Bartelt. In the months that Ms Bartelt has been running our post office she has cleaned it up, repainted, redone the layout to make it more user friendly and added hours of access and services. We are told by the Sagle, ID postmaster that Carrie has increased retail sales numbers by 40 %. There are approximately 500+ folks who utilize this P.O. that would be forced to drive several more miles per day to receive their mail and conduct their mailing/shipping business. This would substantially increase the work load in Athol, probably requiring additional benefited personnel to deal with it, so where is the savings? That looks to us like **increasing** costs to the USPO. So, to force all of us Careywood folks to pay more in gasoline, gas taxes, wear and tear on vehicles, increase our exposure on the highway, (which can be treacherous in the winter time), add possible delays for people receiving their mail/medications seems ludicrous to us, when it can be handled right here, so much more conveniently, as it has for the last 70+ years!! This would create a financial hardship to many of our residents who are elderly and on fixed incomes; this is not necessary. Please **STOP** this closure action!

It has been said that one of the reasons for the planned closure is because they are widening the road and this would impact the location of this P.O.---well, when we asked the roads and highway officials when this might occur- they laughed! According to them, our area is "stage 3" of a 3 stage plan and they do **NOT** have funding yet for stage 2, so it is many years away. They have sent us an email letter stating that it is 10+ years out.(enclosed) Please **STOP** this closure action!

We have also heard that another reason for closure of our P.O. was because Carrie Bartelt has asked for increased compensation. She says she has not asked for more than was her original bid for this contract, also that she was not initially made aware by USPO that this contract was "temporary", or perhaps she would not have put her own funds into improving the

facility. She has not been approached by USPO to renegotiate, but is willing to talk about it.

So, exactly, what is the real reason for this closure? The residents of Careywood certainly want and need this facility where it is now, as evidenced by over 490(so far) signatures on a petition to save our P.O.

We are respectfully asking that you **PLEASE** do whatever is necessary and /or within your powers to retain this Careywood, Idaho Post Office.

Gratefully,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, 'George Searle', is written in a cursive style. The second signature, 'Sharon Searle', is also in cursive and appears to be written below the first one.

George & Sharon Searle

George & Sharon Searle
P/O. Box 16
Careywood, ID 83809